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THE BULLETIN OF THE

REPORT OF MISS MARIAN COMINGS

ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN IN CHARGE

SUBMITTED AT THE ANNIVERSARY MEETING, JUNE 7, 1917

It has been a year of maximum strain on minimum resources, and I wish, first of all, to acknowledge the help that has been given us by the Cleveland Public Library. It has been the policy of Mr. Brett and his staff to assist us in every way. In 1915 the Museum was made a station of the Public Library. Deliveries have been made in answer to 110 calls, and frequent telephone inquiries have had scrupulous attention. The Museum library is being equipped with a reference card catalog of art books in the Public Library, and the latter in turn will have a card list of our books. This assistance bears a vital relation to the needs of our library, since it makes unnecessary the purchase of books not relating particularly to our collections if such books are needed only on occasion and may then be borrowed.

BOOKS

It is almost entirely owing to friends of the Museum that the library can present attractions to the lover of fine books. The proportion of gifts to purchases has been three to one. We have been given 1001 books, and many titles of mark will be found in the printed list appended. Among the most important gifts I would mention: The Macomber collection of books on arms and armor, given by Mr. and Mrs. John L. Severance; the Wilson collection of books on lace, given by Mr. J. H. Wade; catalogs of important private collections, particularly of Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan and of Mr. P. A. B. Widener; Curtis's "The North American Indian," the gift of the family of Mr. James H. Hoyt in his memory; Jaccaci's "Noteworthy paintings in American private collections," from the Holden bequest; a collection of books on gardening, the gift of members of The Garden Club of Cleveland; and Boydell's "Shakespeare," and other valuable books, given by Mr. E. J. Siller.

Accessions by purchase and binding bring the total number of volumes to 1475. Almost all are in English, and purchases have been confined to those works of reference, monographs and handbooks first needed for reference by the staff on the special lines which the collections have taken. Some fields are so adequately covered in other available collections in the city that we need hardly to enter them. But it seems particularly our duty to make the following fields our own: Oriental Art, a subject on which our Museum must speak with authority; Early American Art, for the attribution of objects in our collections or those apt to be offered; Textiles, a subject we have hardly touched; Early Italian Paintings, for the study of the Holden Collection. Our books on the art of Egypt will suffice for the

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present and the subjects of Armor and Lace are fortunately cared for by the gifts mentioned above, but no other special line has yet the books it needs. We need monographs on the artists and minor arts represented in our collections. All these needs are intimately related to the efficiency of the Museum, for we must support our collections by reference to the best authorities. For the use of students we need works, particularly plate collections, on historic and modern design.

Statistics: Gifts	1001
Purchases	382
Bound	93
	<hr/>
Total	1475

PAMPHLETS

Pamphlets of importance have been bound, except catalogs which are likely to be supplanted by later editions. Miscellaneous pamphlets are considered a transient class, either to be bound or discarded later, and have been briefly indexed and classed. Exhibition catalogs, on the contrary, have been catalogued to the slightest leaflet, for they form a collection unique in the city and prolific of information. These number 825 at present; as the collection increases it should be an important asset. Pamphlet catalogs of sales are marked with sale prices for the past two years, and are the only class of printed material still to be catalogued.

Statistics: Purchased	4
Donated	
Miscellaneous	646
Exhibition catalogs	825
Total donated	1471
Sale catalogs	275
	<hr/>
Total collection	1750

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

Clippings on art from 200 American newspapers have accumulated since early in 1913. Irrelevant ones have been discarded, and the residue of 10,000 yield information on 1200 artists and 1000 art subjects. According to their importance they have been handled by mounting or fastening into folders arranged by subject.

An extension of this work that is needed is a collection of articles and illustrations from recent magazines, the latter to be mounted and filed. Work on this has been begun.

Use has been made, in this connection, of pupils in binding classes under supervision of their teachers, and it has been a satisfactory experiment.

THE BULLETIN OF THE

PHOTOGRAPHS AND POSTCARDS

Work on the photograph collection has been in charge of Miss Underhill, who reports:

"We have in our photograph collection 1512 accessioned photographs and 11 portfolios of 1396 photographs that have not been accessioned. Only 443 photographs of the collection have been purchases; the rest have been gifts to the Museum.

"The work of cataloguing the collection has been going steadily forward. 650 of the photographs have been catalogued and are ready for use by the public. It is expected that by the end of the summer the cataloguing of the collection will be finished.

"To build up a good photograph collection will take much time as well as money, as the selection and purchase should be made with great care. An appropriation of a thousand dollars a year for five years would put our photograph collection in the first rank."

Statistics: Purchased	443	1512 accessioned
Gifts	2465	1444 mounted
Total collection	2908	650 catalogued
Postcards in collection	1336	

LANTERN-SLIDES

Gifts have numbered 1462, including Mr. Charles W. Wason's gift of 990 slides, while our purchases have numbered only 287, inclusive of a collection made before the opening of the Museum, of buildings and collections of other museums. 131 slides made at the Museum have been required for special purposes in connection with educational work. Our collection is especially to be looked to for Oriental scenes. It is weak in paintings. We need especially slides, as we do photographs, showing work of painters of whom we have examples in the galleries.

Statistics: Gifts	. . . . .	1462
Purchases	. . . . .	287
Made here	. . . . .	131
Total	. . . . .	1880

EXHIBITIONS

Empty shelves have been fitted with panels and used for exhibitions. We have shown the following:

Loans:

Landscape Architecture, exhibited by local committee.

Conference on City Planning. June 10 to July 10, 1916.

Valentines, lent by Mr. Frank House Baer. February 12 to March 19, 1917.

Angkor Wat and Angkor Thom plates, lent by John G. White Collection, Public Library, March 19 to 26, 1917.

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Exhibitions of Museum material:

Materials and Features of the Printed Book. July 15 to December 16, 1916.

Whistler Etchings and Lithographs—Reproductions. January, 1917.

Chinese and Japanese Sculpture—Reproductions. March 31 to June 2, 1917.

ATTENDANCE AND USE

The staff have made calls averaging two a day for information leading to attribution of objects and study of special subjects. Calls from outside have been few, averaging three a day, either because students were ignorant of our library, or knew it to be incomplete. Regular use by a club working at the Museum under Miss Underhill's guidance, on the subject of early Italian art, has represented one desirable objective for our work with students. In a few instances readers have come repeatedly for study of our remarkable group of books on armor. We shall have more students when we have a larger library.

Children visitors have consumed much time. When they came early for the Saturday entertainments we gathered them, sometimes sixty at a time, in the Children's Room. Until they can be separately handled, we may have to exclude them from the library, except when they definitely want information.

Gratitude is due to the Museum staff and to workers in many other museums for good counsel in the organization of this department. The need of making it a part of the organism of the Museum will lead to individual lines of effort, but would be impossible without the hearty coöperation which it has enjoyed.

LIBRARY STATISTICS

Gifts to the Library to June 1, 1917								
		Volumes	Pamphlets	Photographs	Lantern-slides	Postcards	Magazines	Miscellaneous
Anonymous	. . . . .	2	3	.	.	.	.	.
Adams, R. H.	. . . . .	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
Allen, Dr. Dudley P.	. . . . .	3	2	.	.	.	.	.
Allen, Mrs. Dudley P.	. . . . .	3	.	.	.	.	.	.
American Numismatic Society	. . . . .	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
Ames, Miss May	. . . . .	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
Anderson, Joseph	. . . . .	.	2	.	.	.	.	.
Archæological Society of New Mexico	. . . . .	.	2	.	.	.	2	.
Arnot Art Gallery, Elmira, N. Y.	. . . . .	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
Art Institute of Chicago	. . . . .	.	2	.	.	.	.	.
Baker, William Henry	. . . . .	1	3	.	.	.	.	.
Barber, Edwin Atlee	. . . . .	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
Bayley, Frank W.	. . . . .	1	3	.	.	.	.	.
Beahan, Willard	. . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	12	.
Bell, E. Hamilton	. . . . .	3	2	.	.	.	.	.
Beloit College, Beloit, Wis.	. . . . .	1	.	.	.	.	.	.